ABSTRACT

F(ab) fragments are isolated from an antibody containing source by contacting the antibody containing source with a papain-polyacrylamide matrix to produce F(ab) and F(c) fragments which are then passed through an antigen-polyacrylamide gel capable of attracting the F(ab) fragments. $F(ab)_2$ fragments are obtained by contacting the antibody containing source with a pepsin-polyacrylamide matrix to produce $F(ab)_2$ and F(c) fragments which are then passed through an antigen-polyacrylamide gel capable of attracting the $F(ab)_2$ fragments. IgG antibodies are obtained by passing an antibody containing source through an antigen-polyacrylamide gel. These processes can be used to purify a wide variety of antibodies which can be used as therapeutic agents and as diagnostic agents. Antivenins produced by these processes have substantially reduced foreign protein levels and hence are less likely to produce immunogenic reactions. Bulk, unprocessed antibody sources may be utilized and, for reasons of process simplification, are preferred.

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